THE NEWARK MUSEUM
49 Washington Street
P.O. Box 540
Newark NJ 07101-0540



26th Annual
NEWARK Black Film FESTIVAL

June 28 — August 2, 2000

THE NEWARK MUSEUM
presents
The Newark Black Film Festival

Co-sponsors
The Newark Public Library
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Rutgers, The State University/Newark

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From the inception of the Cinematic Era, perceptions on the meaning of blackness and whiteness defined what audiences have seen on the silver screen. In a bold effort to enhance and inform the meaning of the black experience in the United States and in other societies, the Newark Black Film Festival was launched in 1974. Now in its 26th year, the Festival is a guiding force in sustaining broad public interest in progressive black cinema.

The Newark Black Film Festival has always been at the center of the mission of The Newark Museum. The Festival is among the nation's oldest artistic endeavors devoted exclusively to black film history, presentation, and progress. Originated by the Annenberg Center for Communications at the University of Pennsylvania, it was brought to Newark through the Greater Newark Urban Coalition under the leadership of Gustav Heningburg. It has presented hundreds of screenings and lectures that explore and inform every conceivable film genre. The Festival also provides an engaging public forum for hundreds of emerging writers, directors, producers, and performers. Equally important, it is among the most enduring forms of public enjoyment in the Greater Newark area, reaching students, parents, children and film buffs near and far. In the past twenty-five years, 515 films have been viewed by a total audience of over 104,000 adults and children.







Last year, during its 25th Anniversary, it was hailed as an important, indeed precious, community service, one that challenges tired, old racial and ethnic stereotypes with believable and culturally wholesome narratives of people who share African ancestry.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Newark Black Film Festival program of events and film sources can now be viewed on The Newark Museum's website (www.newarkmuseum.org) or you can reach the Museum by calling 973-596-6550.

Dr. Clement Alexander Price
Professor of History, Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience
Rutgers University, Newark Campus

FESTIVAL SUPPORT

CIT

The Newark Black Film Festival has received special funding from The CIT Group, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the City of Newark. Annually the Festival is organized and sponsored by The Newark Museum. We are proud to have the following co-sponsors - New Jersey Institute of Technology, The Newark Public Library and Rutgers – The State University (Newark Campus). The Festival will continue with its tradition of enriching programming along with quality cinema.

ADMISSION IS FREE TO ALL PROGRAMS

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be one screening only each evening. Due to fire regulations, there will be no admission once theater seating is filled to capacity. Group of 25 or more must make arrangements in advance by calling 973-596-6550. (Group seating held only until 7:15 p.m.) Become a member of The Newark Museum and receive advance notice of these and other exciting programs. Call 973-596-6550.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Date	Film	Venue	Special Guests
June 28	*Sanders of the River*	Newark Museum	Paul Robeson, Jr.
July 5	*Secrets* and *Naked Acts*	NJIT	Sheryl Lee Ralph and Bridgett Davis
July 12	*Classified X*	Newark Museum	
July 19	*Pieces d'Identities*	Newark Museum	Mweze Ngangura
July 26	*Shaft*	NJIT	Isaac Hayes
August 2	Paul Robeson Awards	Newark Museum	Award Winning Filmmakers

SELECTION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Gloria Hopkins Buck
Consultant, Rochelle Jones and Associates

Ms. Wilma (Bunny) Grey
Assistant Director of Community Library Services
Newark Public Library

Mr. Thomas C. Guy, Jr.
Independent Filmmaker

Mr. Theodore Johnson
Executive Director of Compliance, Training, Community Relations
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Ms. Michele A. Parchment
Manager of Public Programs
The Newark Museum

Ms. Lisa Payne
Filmmaker

Dr. Clement A. Price
Professor of History, Director of the Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience
Rutgers University, Newark Campus

Mrs. Mary Sue Price
Director, The Newark Museum

Mrs. Jane W. Rappaport

Mr. Richard Wesley
Scriptwriter/Playwright

CONSULTANTS

Mr. Donald Bogle
Author and Film Historian

Mr. Gil Noble
Producer/Host
"Like It Is" WABC-TV

Mr. Harold Weaver
Third World Moving Images Project

MEMBER EMERITUS

Mr. John Gregory Clemons

Mr. Oliver Franklin

Mr. Gustav Heningburg

SPECIAL THANKS

Mr. Frederick Marx
Filmmaker/Director/Producer

The Newark Museum
Billy Johnson Auditorium
49 Washington Street
Newark, NJ
973-596-6550

NJIT
University Hall
99 Summit Street
Newark, NJ
973-596-3133



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June 28, 7:00 pm

The Newark Museum

The Great Forerunner: Paul Robeson

Sanders of the River

Special Guest:
Paul Robeson, Jr.

Host: Dr. Clement A. Price



Set in the 1930s, *Sanders of the River* tells the story of a British district officer who ruled his area strictly but justly, and struggles with gun-runners and slavers with the aid of a loyal African chief, played by Paul Robeson. Following the movie, which is being shown at the Festival for the first time, Paul Robeson, Jr. will speak of his father's unsuccessful fight to block its release. Adult subject matter. (Black & White/ 80 minutes/VHS/1935)

July 5, 7:00 pm

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Sisters Behind the Camera

Special Guests: Sheryl Lee Ralph and Bridgett Davis, filmmakers

Welcome: Theodore Johnson

Host: Lisa Payne

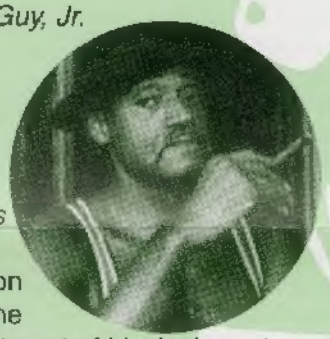
July 12, 7:00 pm

The Newark Museum

Black Cinema

Classified X

Host: Thomas C. Guy, Jr.



Melvin Van Peebles, director of the breakthrough movie *Sweet Sweetback's Baadassss Song*, turns his perception on Hollywood as he examines the treatment of black characters throughout the history of American cinema in his 1998 release of *Classified X*. Van Peebles uses examples from classic films beginning with footage by Thomas Edison in 1903 to the present, tracing how Hollywood has aided and abetted the public perception of African Americans through the years. (Color/50 minutes/VHS/1998)

July 19, 7:00 pm

The Newark Museum

The Black Diaspora

Pieces d'Identities

Special Guest: Mweze Ngangura

Host: Wilma (Bunny) Grey

Filmmaker/director Mweze Ngangura will make his Newark premiere appearance at the Festival. *Pieces d'Identities* is a tale of

August 2, 7:00 pm

The Newark Museum

PAUL ROBESON BIENNIAL AWARDS

Special Guests: Award Winning Filmmakers
Host: Gloria Hopkins Buck

In recognition of Paul Robeson's outstanding life and career, the Newark Black Film Festival began the Paul Robeson Biennial Awards in 1985.

WINNERS:

A Hero for All: Nelson Mandela's Farewell
Danny Schechter, Director
Anant Singh, Producer

In a world hungry for heroes and positive role models, South Africa's former president Nelson Mandela stands apart as one of the most admired leaders in the world, truly the man of the millennium. This is the timely inside story of his farewell tour of the United States and Canada that inspired millions. (Documentary category: Color/59 minutes/ video/1999)

Homecoming: Sometimes I am haunted by memories of red dirt and clay
Charlene Gilbert, Filmmaker

Homecoming...is a personal documentary on African American farmers in the rural south. Ms. Gilbert constructs a moving portrait of one of the most tragic stories in the history of the American South. (Documentary category: Color /57 minutes/color/ video/1999)

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Then I'll Be Free To Travel – Part 1

Secrets



Actress-turned-filmmaker, Sheryl Lee Ralph has assembled an all-star female cast as a group of friends who find out a shocking secret about the men in their lives. Adult subject matter. (Color/13 minutes/16mm/1997)

Naked Acts



An aspiring African American actress, Cicely (Jake-ann Jones) has a beautiful body. As the daughter of '70s Blaxploitation queen Lydia Love (DeArcy), Cicely is painfully aware of how the world sees black women. *Naked Acts* deftly handles the personal and societal issues that every woman faces when she looks in the mirror. Adult subject matter. (Color/108 minutes/16mm /1995)

CIT *The Newark Black Film Festival has received special funding from The CIT Group, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the City of Newark.*

an old king, his beautiful if wayward daughter, and the prince charming who rescues them. This simple fable raises some of the most troubling issues of identity facing people of African descent in the ever-widening Diaspora of the late 20th century. Filmed in the Congo and Belgium. French with English subtitles. (Color/94 minutes/VHS/1998)

July 26, 7:00 pm

New Jersey Institute of Technology

A Look Back at Black Exploitation Films

Shaft

Special Guest: Isaac Hayes

Host: Dr. Clement A. Price



Academy Award-winning composer, Isaac Hayes will discuss the music of *Shaft* - past and present. With the release of the remaking of Shaft, go back in time and view the 1971 original. John Shaft is the ultimate in suave detectives who finds himself up against the leader of the black crime mob, then against black nationals, and finally working with both against the white mafia. Adult subject matter. (Color/98 minutes/VHS/1971)

EVT Educational Productions, Filmmaker

This film chronicles the discovery of New York's Colonial Era African Burial Ground, and the historical contributions the original Africans who founded it (and their descendants) made to the survival and development of New York and the Nation, from 1626 to the New York City Draft Riots of 1863. (Documentary category: Color/60 minutes/Beta SP videotape/1999).

One Day Longer: The Story of the Frontier Strike

Amie Williams, Filmmaker

This film is the story of one of the longest running strikes in labor history featuring minority and immigrant workers in one of the lowest-wage industries in America, the casino-service industry. It is the story of everyday heroes and national solidarity. (Documentary category: Color/46 minutes/16mm/1999)

Dread Night Folk

Erik Knight, Filmmaker

An old man, aided by a boy, attempts to escape death by fleeing into the night, entering a world of folklore and myth on the streets of New York City. The film explores issues around aging, death, inter-generational relationships, and the voluntary migration of black people to the 'first world,' dreams realized, and those deferred, along the cultural paths from Africa and the Caribbean to America and Europe. (Short Narrative category: Color/27 minutes/16mm /1997)

YOUTH CINEMA

Mondays at 10:30 am
The Newark Public Library
5 Washington Street
Newark, NJ

Wednesdays at 1:00 pm
The Newark Museum
Billy Johnson Auditorium
49 Washington Street
Newark, NJ

ADMISSION FREE!!



Monday, July 10 & Wednesday, July 12
Stories from the Black Tradition
This series includes *A Story – A Story, Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters, Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears, The Village of Round and Square Houses* and *Goggles.* (Rated G - 52 minutes)

Monday, July 17 & Wednesday, July 19
And The Children Shall Lead
Danny Glover and LeVar Burton star in this story of a young black girl who attempts to advance the rights of blacks in Mississippi. (Rated G - 60 minutes)

Monday, July 24 & Wednesday, July 26
You Must Remember This
Ella, a budding young basketball star, makes an amazing discovery!
(Rated G - 102 minutes)

Monday, July 31 & Wednesday, August 2
Words By Heart
The commandment "love thy neighbor" clashes with prejudice in this moving drama set at the turn of the century.
(Rated G - 116 minutes)

The Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, and corporate, foundation and individual donors. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.